

Remarks

Claims 1-22 are pending in the instant application. Applicants have cancelled claim 14 and amended claims 1-17 and 20-22 to more fully conform with U.S. practice. The amendments do not constitute new matter.

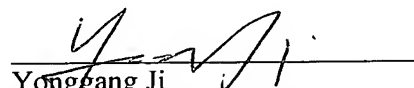
The enclosed substitute specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b)(3) and 1.125 is for publication purposes and does not contain any markings. It includes a new first paragraph cross referencing the related priority applications.

Applicants provide herewith copies of the published international application, the International Search Report, the International Preliminary Report on Patentability and the Written Opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority. Also enclosed is the Form PTO-1449 listing the cited references and copies of the non-US citations.

Enclosed are copies of the signed 371 National Phase Power of Attorney and Declaration, which were both executed at the international stage.

Applicants respectfully assert that all amendments are fairly based on the specification, and respectfully request their entry. Applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are in allowable form and earnestly solicited the allowance of claims 1-13 and 15-22.

Respectfully submitted,


Yonggang Ji
Registration No.: 53,073
Agent for Applicants

Customer No.: 22840
GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.
Patent Department
800 Centennial Avenue
Piscataway, New Jersey 08855-1327
Tel: (732) 980-2875
Fax: (732) 457-8463

T:\LEGALS\Pat_Dept\IP_Dept\Amendments\First Preliminary Amendment\PU2006\PU0407 (08-16-06).doc